

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 14, lines 28 and 29, please delete the paragraph and insert the following in its place:

Fig. 4 shows sequences of the utilized regions i.e. A', B and C: HCV (SEQ ID NO: 6) and Human (SEQ ID NO: 7).

On page 15, lines 4-11, please delete the paragraph and insert the following in its place:

Fig. 7 shows a particularly suitable region (SEQ ID NO: 8) of the HCV genome for performing the method according to the invention and a sequence from which the primer and probe sequences are preferably selected. This second sequence is taken from the non-human pathogenic virus HGBV-B (SEQ ID NO: 9). The selected primer and probe sequences are therefore sequences that are not specific for HCV (M. Med. Virol. 48, 60-67).

On page 15, lines 12 and 13, please delete the paragraph and insert the following in its place:

Fig. 8 to 10 show preferred sequences for primers and probes for the HCV test: MPF1 (SEQ ID NO: 10), MPF1+1 (SEQ ID NO: 11), MPF2 (SEQ ID NO: 12), HCV_1A (SEQ ID NO: 13), MPR1_rev&compl (SEQ ID NO: 14), MPR2_rev & compl (SEQ ID NO: 15), HCVMCR02_rev&compl (SEQ ID NO: 16), Forward primer CK10/Reverse primer CK20 (SEQ ID NOs: 17 and 18), Forward primer CK11/Reverse primer CK20 (SEQ ID NOs: 19 and 20), Forward primer CK10-1/Reverse primer CK20-1 (SEQ ID NOs: 21 and 22), Forward primer CK11-1 (SEQ ID NO: 23), Forward primer CK 10-2/Reverse primer CK20-2 (SEQ ID NOs: 24 and 25), Forward primer CK11-2 (SEQ ID NO: 26), Reverse primer CK21 (SEQ ID NO: 27), Forward primer CK10-1/Reverse Primer CK21-1 (SEQ ID NOs: 28 and 29), Forward primer CK11-1 (SEQ ID NO: 30), Reverse primer CK21-2 (SEQ ID NO: 31), Reverse primer

CK21-3 (SEQ ID NO: 32), Forward primer CK12/Reverse primer CK22 (SEQ ID NOs: 33 and 34), Forward primer CK12-1/Reverse primer CK22-1 (SEQ ID NOs: 35 and 36), Reverse primer CK22-2 (SEQ ID NO: 37), Reverse Primer CK22-3 (SEQ ID NO: 38), Forward primer CK12-2/Reverse primer CK22-4 (SEQ ID NOs: 39 and 40), Reverse primer CK22-5 (SEQ ID NO: 41), Reverse primer CK23 (SEQ ID NO: 42), Reverse primer CK23-1 (SEQ ID NO: 43), Reverse primer CK23-2 (SEQ ID NO: 44), Reverse primer CK23-3 (SEQ ID NO: 45), Reverse primer CK24 (SEQ ID NO: 46), Reverse primer CK24-1 (SEQ ID NO: 47), Reverse primer CK24-2 (SEQ ID NO: 48), Reverse primer CK24-3 (SEQ ID NO: 49), HCV (SEQ ID NO: 93) and HGBV-B (SEQ ID NO: 94).

On page 55, lines 10-13, please delete the paragraph and insert the following in its place:

Two different ruthenium-labelled probes were used for the hybridization:

PNA-probe: Ru-(Ser)₂-TCCAGGACCC-Ser-Gly (SEQ ID NO: 92)

DNA-probe: 5'-Ru-CTCCAGGACCCC-3', (SEQ.ID.NO.5)

On page 63, please delete the entire table and insert the following in its place:

primer	sequence	position	amplicon
SK 462 (SEQ ID NO: 50)	5'-AGTTGGAGGACATCAAGCAGCCATGCAAAT-3'	1359-1388 (30)	
SK 431 (SEQ ID NO: 51) (gag)	5'-TGCTATGTCAGTCCCCCTGGTTCTCT-3'	1474-1500 (27)	142 bp
SK 102 (SEQ ID NO: 52)	5'-ATCAATGAGGAAGCTGCAGA-3'	1402-1421 (20)	
RAR 1032 (SEQ ID NO: 53)	5'-GAGACACCAGGAATTAGATATCAGTACAATGT-3'	2961-2992 (32)	
RAR 1033 (SEQ ID NO: 54) (pol)	5'-CTAAATCAGATCCTACATATAAGTCATCCATGT-3'	3097-3129 (33)	169 bp
RAR 1034 (SEQ ID NO: 55)	5'-CCACAAGGATGGAAAGGATCACCAAGCTATATTCCA-3'	2997-3031 (35)	
GH A1F (SEQ ID NO: 56)	5'-TGTACCAGTAAAATTAAAGCCAG	2570-2592 (23)	

GH A1R (SEQ ID NO: 57) (pol) GH A1P (SEQ ID NO: 58)	5'-GGCCATTGTTAACCTTTGG 5'-AGGAATGGATGGC	2604-2623 (20) 2591-2603 (13)	54 bp
GH A2F (SEQ ID NO: 59) GH A2R (SEQ ID NO: 60) (pol) GH A2P (SEQ ID NO: 61)	5'-TACCTGGCATGGGTACCAAGC 5'-GACTAATTATCTACTTGTTCATTTC 5'-CACACAAAGGAATTGGAG	4143-4162 (20) 4180-4205 (26) 4162-4179 (18)	63 bp
GH A3F (SEQ ID NO: 62) GH A3R (SEQ ID NO: 63) (pol) GH A3P (SEQ ID NO: 64)	5'-TTTCCAATTCCCTACAATCC 5'-AATTCTTATTCTAGATTCTACTAC 5'-CCCAAAGTCAAGGAG	4644-4663 (20) 4677-4702 (26) 4663-4677 (15)	59 bp
GH A4F (SEQ ID NO: 65) GH A4R (SEQ ID NO: 66) (pol) GH A4P (SEQ ID NO: 67)	5'-TCAAAATTTCGGGTTATTACAG 5'-AGCTTGCTGGTCCTTCCA 5'-GGACAGCAGAAATCCACTT	4889-4912 (24) 4932-4951 (20) 4913-4931 (19)	63 bp
GH A5F (SEQ ID NO: 68) GH A5R (SEQ ID NO: 69) (pol) GH A5P (SEQ ID NO: 70)	5'-GGAAAAGGTCTATCTGGCATGGT 5'-ACTAATTATCTACTTGTTCATTCC 5'-ACCAGCACACAAAGGAATTG	4133-4156 (24) 4177-4204 (28) 4157-4176 (20)	72 bp
GH A6F (SEQ ID NO: 71) GH A6R (SEQ ID NO: 72) (pol) GH A6P (SEQ ID NO: 73)	5'-GCAACTAGATTGTACACATTAGAAG 5'-CTTCTATATCCACTGGCTACATG 5'-GAAAAGTTATCCTGGTAGCAGTT	4412-4437 (26) 4461-4485 (25) 4438-4460 (23)	74 bp

On page 65, please delete the entire table and insert the following in its place :

	primer/probe	sequence	position	amplicon length
Ref	HBV-Forward (SEQ ID NO: 74)	5'-GGAGTGTGGATT CGCACT-3'	2267-2284 (18)	
	HBV-Reverse (SEQ ID NO: 75)	5'-TGAGATCTTCTGCGACGC-3'	2419-2436 (18)	170 bp
	capture probe (SEQ ID NO: 76)	5'-AGACCACCAAATGCCCTAT-3'	2297-2316 (20)	
1	GHBV-1F (SEQ ID NO: 77)	5'-CCACCAAATGCCCTAT-3'	2300-2316 (17)	
	GHBV-1R (SEQ ID NO: 78)	5'-CCCGTCGTCTAACACAG-3'	2340-2357 (18)	58 bp
	capture probe 1P (SEQ ID NO: 79)	5'-CTTATCAACACTCCGGAAACTA-3'	2317-2339 (23)	
2	GHBV-2F (SEQ ID NO: 80)	5'-GCGGGGTTTTCTTGT-3'	203-219 (17)	
	GHBV-2R (SEQ ID NO: 81)	5'-TCTAGACTCTGCGGTATTGTG-3'	232-252 (21)	50 bp
	capture probe 2P (SEQ ID NO: 82)	5'-TTGACAAGAACCTCA-3'	218-233 (16)	
3	GHBV-3F (SEQ ID NO: 83)	5'-GATCCCCAACCTCCAATC-3'	315-332 (18)	
	GHBV-3R (SEQ ID NO: 84)	5'-CAGCGATAACCAGGACAAAT-3'	356-375 (20)	61 bp
	capture probe 3P (SEQ ID NO: 85)	5'-ACTCACCAACCTCCTGTCCTCCA-3'	333-355 (23)	
4	GHBV-4F (SEQ ID NO: 86)	5'-ACTTCTTCCTTCCGT CAGA-3'	1965-1984 (20)	
	GHBV-4R (SEQ ID NO: 87)	5'-AAGGCTTCCC GATA CAGAG-3'	2007-2015 (19)	61 bp
	capture probe 4P (SEQ ID NO: 88)	5'-GATCTCCTAGACACCGCCTCGG-3'	1985-2006 (22)	
5	GHBV-5F (SEQ ID NO: 89)	5'-CAGCCAACCAGGTAGGAGTG-3'	3014-3033 (20)	
	GHBV-5R (SEQ ID NO: 90)	5'-CCGTGTGGAGGGGTGAAC-3'	3051-3068 (18)	55 bp
	capture probe 5P (SEQ ID NO: 91)	5'-GGAGCATTGGGCCAGG-3'	3034-3050 (17)	